



JACK DOYLE

MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

For Immediate Release:

Tuesday, September 17, 2002

County Restores Daycare Funding

600 Families, 1200 Children Will Continue To Receive Benefits In 2003

Monroe County Executive **Jack Doyle** today announced the restoration of funding for all families currently receiving daycare benefits through 2003. 600 Monroe County families and 1200 children will benefit from the change. Improved program management including more stringent efforts in detecting fraud, higher than expected attrition in the program and the foregoing of a rate increase for providers made the restoration possible.

"Helping working families remain independent has always been one of my first priorities," said Doyle. "Importantly, we were able to restore these needed benefits for over 1,200 children without increasing spending. Instead, we worked hard to eliminate fraud and help families receiving assistance find better jobs. I also want to thank the Day Care Consortium and our day care providers for holding the line on the costs for these needed programs."

All Monroe County families currently receiving assistance that are living at or below 200% of the poverty level will now continue to receive benefits through 2003. As previously announced, new applicants for income-eligible day care assistance will only be accepted if their income is at or below 140% of the poverty level.

"The hard work of the staff at Department of Social Services, including Director Richard Schauseil and Deputy Director Don Vacanti, has made this announcement possible," said Doyle. "I want to thank them for their efforts to help families in need while protecting County taxpayers."

Monroe County has led all counties outside of New York City in providing day care for families in need. Total day care expenditures in Monroe County have increased by over 120% since 1995 from \$26 million to \$58 million. This is due in large part to the County's partnership with the Day Care Collaborative and New York State.

Earlier this year, due to the direct efforts of Governor Pataki to provide additional state aid, Monroe County was able to announce the restoration of daycare benefits for all of 2002. Today's announcement builds upon the Governor's previous efforts.

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